

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, LUN RO
SUBJ: GRAND DUKE'S STATE VISIT TO ROMANIA

SUMMARY: IN A STATE VISIT LARGELY DEVOTED TO PROTOCOL ACTIVITIES
AND SIGHTSEEING, PRIME MINISTER THORN AND OTHER GOL OFFICIALS
DISCUSSED EAST-WEST ISSUES AND BILATERAL ECONOMIC PROSPECTS
WITH PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU AND FOREIGN MINISTER MACOVESCU.
LUXEMBOURGERS DETECTED GREAT ROMANIAN SENSITIVITY TO ANY
IMPLIED CRITICISM OF GOR PERFORMANCE IN BASKET III HUMAN RIGHTS
AREA. ON ECONOMIC SIDE, NO CONTRACTS WERE SIGNED OR CONCRETE
AGREEMENTS MADE BUT GOL OFFICIALS BELIEVE LUXEMBOURG TRADE
MISSION ESTABLISHED GOOD CONTACTS WITH ROMANIAN TRADE OFFICIALS
AND ARE HOPEFUL TRADE CAN BE INCREASED. END SUMMARY.
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1. GRAND DUKE JEAN, GRAND DUCHESS CHARLOTTE, PRIME MINISTER AND MRS. THORN, MFA OFFICIALS AND A LUXEMBOURG TRADE DELEGATION MADE A FOUR-DAY STATE VISIT TO ROMANIA ON OCTOBER 25-28. THE GRAND DUKE WAS RETURNING A VISIT MADE BY PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU TO LUXEMBOURG IN 1972.

2. MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR PAUL MERTZ, WHO WAS WITH PRIME MINISTER THORN AT MAJOR MEETINGS, GAVE DCM HIS IMPRESSIONS OF THE VISIT. MERTZ SAID THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE WAS VERY GOOD. THE SIGHTSEEING AND PROTOCOL ACTIVITIES WERE EXTREMELY WELL ORGANIZED AND THE LUXEMBOURGERS FELT THE ROMANIANS MADE A VERY REAL EFFORT TO INSURE THE SUCCESS OF THAT ASPECT OF THE VISIT. IN ADDITION TO BUCHAREST, THE PARTY VISITED BUCOVINE.

3. HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS WERE DISCUSSED BOTH IN CSCE CONTEXT AND BECAUSE LUXEMBOURGERS CARRIED BRIEFS FOR FIVE LUXEMBOURG CITIZENS WHOSE ROMANIAN FIANCEES WERE UNABLE TO OBTAIN EXIT VISAS. ROMANIAN MFA OFFICIALS TOLD THE LUXEMBOURG ADVANCE PARTY THAT THE FIVE VISAS WOULD BE GRANTED, BUT CEAUSESCU NONETHELESS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE ISSUE TO LECTURE THORN AND HIS COLLEAGUES ON "ROMANIA'S SPLENDID RECORD IN HUMAN RIGHTS AREA." CEAUSESCU WENT TO GREAT PAINS TO EXPLAIN THAT REASON FOR LIMITING EXIT VISAS WAS NOT IDEOLOGICAL BUT TO AVOID A BRAIN DRAIN. IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WAS A SORE POINT WITH CEAUSESCU. IN CSCE CONTEXT, ROMANIANS INSISTED THAT BASKET III PROVISIONS WERE MEANT TO EMPHASIZE ORGANIZED EXCHANGES AND VISITS RATHER THAN A FREE-FLOW OF PEOPLE AND IDEAS. THE LUXEMBOURGERS RESISTED LANGUAGE IMPLYING THIS INTERPRETATION IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE AT END OF VISIT.

4. ON OTHER ASPECTS OF CSCE, THE ROMANIANS SAID THEY DO NOT EXPECT TOO MUCH FROM THE BELGRADE MEETING; FOR EXAMPLE, NO NEW FINAL ACT WOULD BE AGREED UPON. BUT THEY DID EXPRESS HOPE THAT THE BEGRADE MEETING COULD DRAW OUT, REFINE AND DEFINE SOME OF THE IMPLICATIONS IN THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. ROMANIANS SAID THEY HOPE A WORK PROGRAM CAN BE DRAWN UP AT BELGRADE WHICH WOULD INCLUDE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SETTING A DATE FOR ANOTHER FUTURE FOLLOW-ON MEETING. THE ROMANIANS ARE PREPARED TO PUSH CERTAIN IDEAS WHICH THEY REGARD AS THEIR OWN. FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE BASKET I CATEGORY THEY WILL PROPOSE NOTIFICATION BE REQUIRED FOR LOWER LEVEL TROOP EXERCISES, I.E., EXERCISES INVOLVING LESS THAN 25,000 MEN. THEY WILL ALSO SUGGEST PROCEDURES FOR NOTIFICATION ON IMPORTANT INTERNAL TROOP MOVEMENTS.

5. ACCORDING TO MERTZ, THEIR IDEAS ON BASKET II WERE GENERAL, AND THEY SPOKE ONLY VAGUELY OF FINDING WAYS TO ELIMINATE OBSTACLES TO TRADE. UNDER BASKET III, THE ROMANIANS PUT THE EMPHASIS ON ORGANIZED CONTACTS BUT REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT TRULY FREE MOVEMENT AND CONTACT AMONG PEOPLES ENVISAGED IN THE FINAL HELSINKI ACT. THEY ARGUED, RATHER, THAT SUCH RESULTS COULD ONLY BE OBTAINED THROUGH A SERIES OF EVOLUTIONARY STEPS OVER TIME.

6. CEAUSESCU INDICATED TO THORN THAT IT IS 90 PERCENT CERTAIN THAT THERE WILL BE A WARSAW PACT SUMMIT IN BUCHAREST IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT BUCHAREST WOULD BE ROUTINELY TAKING ITS TURN TO HOST THE SUMMIT MEETING AND THAT THE WEST SHOULD NOT ATTACH ANY PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE TO A SUMMIT BEING HELD IN BUCHAREST AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME. CEAUSESCU ADDED THAT HE HOPES THAT THE PACT COUNTRIES CAN AT LEAST DISCUSS IDEAS ON HOW TO MOVE TOWARDS THE DISSOLUTION OF MILITARY BLOCS.

7. ON ECONOMIC RELATIONS, MERTZ POINTED OUT THAT LUXEMBOURG HAS A HIGHLY FAVORABLE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS WITH ROMANIA AND THEREFORE THE LUXEMBOURG TRADE OFFICIALS AND BUSINESSMEN FOUND THEIR COUNTERPARTS EAGER TO DISCUSS QUID PRO QUOS IN INCREASING TRADE. WHILE LUXEMBOURG CAN IMPORT CERTAIN ROMANIAN PRODUCTS SUCH AS WOOD AND SOME VEGETABLE CROPS, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE PURCHASE OF ROMANIAN GOODS CAN BE INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE ROMANIANS ARGUED THAT FAVORABLE CREDIT WOULD BE AN INCENTIVE TO ADDITIONAL ROMANIAN IMPORTS (MOSTLY STEEL) FROM LUXEMBOURG. NO CONTRACTS WERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SIGNED BUT BOTH SIDES REPORTEDLY BELIEVE CONTACTS WERE USEFUL AND COULD WELL BEAR FRUIT OVER THE NEXT YEARS IN INCREASED TRADE AND IN SOME JOINT INVESTMENT PROJECTS.

8. CEAUSESCU ASKED THORN ABOUT THE AMERICAN ELECTIONS AND WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF CARTER WON. THORN REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT THINK THERE WAS MUCH DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO CANDIDATES ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES. HE ADDED THAT OBVIOUSLY IF CARTER WON, THE NEW PRESIDENT WOULD REQUIRE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TIME TO ORGANIZE HIS ADMINISTRATION. THE SUBJECT OF THE AMERICAN ELECTIONS CAME UP SEVERAL TIMES AT DINNERS AND ON OTHER OCCASIONS DURING THE VISIT AND MERTZ SAID HE WAS STRUCK BY THE INTEREST THE ROMANIANS SHOWED IN THE UNITED STATES POLITICAL PROCESS.

9. ANOTHER AREA COVERED IN SUBSTANTIVE TALKS WAS THIRD WORLD PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY THE "NEW ECONOMIC ORDER." MERTZ SAID THE ROMANIANS TOOK PREDICTABLE STANDS ON THIRD WORLD ISSUES. THE ONLY DIFFICULTY CAME IN DRAFTING THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE. THE GOR INSISTED ON LANGUAGE IDENTIFYING ROMANIA AS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY, WHICH THE LUXEMBOURGERS REJECTED. THUS, THERE WAS SCANT REFERENCE TO THIRD WORLD PROBLEMS IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE.

10. FINALLY, IN THE CULTURAL AREA, THERE WERE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT HOW TO IMPLEMENT A FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON CULTURAL EXCHANGES INITIALED THREE MONTHS EARLIER. MERTZ SAID THE GOING WOULD BE SLOW IN THE CULTURAL AREA BECAUSE NEITHER SIDE IS PREPARED TO OFFER MUCH, BUT THERE WILL BE SOME MINIMAL EXCHANGES OF MUSIC OR DANCE GROUPS OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS. GINN

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